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THE OBSERVATOR.

A further Account of the Perſecution and Cruelties of the Spaniards, *againſt* Proteſtants, Jews, *and* Indians, *to demonſtrate the Juſtice of God, in blinding them ſo far as to make their Country a Field of Blood. The ſame Judicial Obſtinacy viſible upon the* French *King and his Subjects. On the Endeavours of* Leſley, *and other of our Highfliers, to reconcile us to Popery and the Pretender. On the* Examiner's *ſlandering our Generals and Army.*

From Wedneſday, December 20. to Saturday, December 23. 1710.

Countrym. I Want a further Account of the Hiſtory of *Spaniſh* Cruelties and Perſecutions, Maſter; the Hints you gave me laſt day of their Barbarity to the *Moors*, and the Perſecution they rais'd againſt them, contrary to ſolemn Treaties, has convinc'd me, that Providence is very juſt in making that Country a Theatre of Blood and Slaughter, by way of Repriſal for thoſe inhuman Proceedings.

Obſ. The Divine Juſtice, tho ſlow, is always ſure, *Roger*, and never fails to viſit the Iniquity of the Fathers upon the Children to the third and fourth Generation, if the Children purſue the unjuſt Methods of their Anceſtors; for by that means they entitle themſelves to their Puniſhment by way of Inheritance. You will be further convinc'd of this, when you know that the *Spaniards* not only perſecuted the *Moors*, but the *Jews* and *Proteſtants*, in a barbarous, bloody, and faithleſs manner, at the inſtigation of High-Church Prieſts, who conſtantly ſacrifice the Intereſt of God and their Country to their own narrow and peculiar Opinions.

Countrym. I thought they never had any Proteſtants in *Spain*, Maſter.

Obſ. Yes they had, *Roger*. Dr. *Geddes*, in his *Spaniſh Proteſtant Martyrology*, gives us an Account, that about the year 1440. great numbers of People were, at the Inſtigation of the Inquiſitors, brought from the Mountains of *Biſcay*, &c. and burnt at *Valladolid*, and elſewhere; becauſe they refus'd to abjure ſeveral Doctrines, the ſame with thoſe of the *Waldenſes*, which the Church of *Rome* had condemn'd for Hereſy. Thoſe Doctrines came afterwards to be embrac'd by many learned Men and People of Quality, and particularly by ſome of their moſt eminent and learned Divines, whom the Emperor *Charles* V. and his Son *Philip* II. ſent into *Germany*, *Flanders*, and *England*, to convince the Proteſtants, and bring them back to the Church of *Rome*: So that *Paramus* an Inquiſitor, in his *Hiſtory of the Inquiſition*, ſays, the Proteſtant Doctrine would in a little time have over-run *Spain* like Wildfire, had it not been ſtop'd by the Inquiſition, which burnt, or otherwiſe deſtroy'd, ſeveral of the Emperor *Charles* V's Chaplains, and among others *Don Conſtantio* his Confeſſor, a Perſon of extraordinary Learning and Piety. Many People of Quality had the ſame Fate, ſays the Author of the *Hiſtoria Pontifical*, whoſe Names he omits, leſt he ſhould ſtain the Honour of their noble Families. There's very good reaſon to believe, that *Charles* the Fifth himſelf was convinc'd of the Truth of the Proteſtant Faith, and died in it, for which ſome ſay his Corps was burnt, by order of his inhuman Son *Philip* the Second; and that his Memory would have been publickly condemn'd, had it not been for fear that *Philip*'s own Title would have ſuffer'd by it. Hiſtorians ſay further, that Prince *Charles*, Son to *Philip* the Second, was privately put to Death by his Father's Order, becauſe he expreſs'd himſelf favourably concerning the Proteſtant Doctrine, and ſeem'd to be convinc'd of the Truth of it, by the Diſcourſes of ſome Proteſtants of Quality, to whoſe Martyrdom he was a Witneſs.

Countrym. Bleſs me, Maſter! What an unaccountable thing is Bigotry, that can diſſolve all the ſtricteſt Obligations of Nature, and make Parents and Children butcher one another! Is that the Religion that ſo many of our High-Church-Men are longing for? Is it poſſible that any Proteſtant can be deluded into Thoughts of a Reconciliation with the Church of *Rome*, by our *Leſley*'s, *Dodwell*'s, and others of the *Laudean* Faction? Or can any People in their Senſes, who have the leaſt regard to the Doctrine of the Church of *England*, entertain a Deſign of bringing in the Pretender, who has been bred up in the Politicks of *France*, and the Religion of *Rome*? But pray go on with your Account of the *Spaniſh* Perſecution.

Obſ. Theſe were the Methods the High Church-Prieſts made uſe of, *Roger*, to extinguiſh the Proteſtant Doctrine in *Spain*. Every body knows the unparallel'd Cruelties they practis'd in the *Netherlands* upon the ſame account, which occaſion'd the Revolt of the ſeventeen Provinces, and their final Loſs of the ſeven, that now make up the *Dutch* Republick. They were likewiſe at the Head of that call'd the Catholick League in *France*, which occaſion'd the Murder of two of their Kings, and the Maſſacre of ſo many Thouſands of Proteſtants in that Kingdom. Nay further, *Roger*, the View of the *Spaniſh* Succeſſion was one of the principal Motives which engag'd the preſent *French* King, in that ungrateful, treacherous and impolitick Perſecution of his Proteſtant Subjects, who kept the Crown on his Head, becauſe he knew it was the moſt effectual way to pleaſe the bigotted *Spaniards*; wherein the Event has prov'd that he was not miſtaken. 'Twas likewiſe the *Spaniſh* Councils that occaſion'd the *Marian* Perſecution here in *England*, as well as that of the Houſe of *Auſtria* in *Germany*, which brought on the Civil War there.

Countrym. I don't wonder at the Judgments which have ſince befallen the *Spaniſh* Nation, and thoſe which they are ſtill threaten'd with, Maſter; for God never fails to puniſh Perſecutors, who uſurp his Throne, and domineer over the Conſciences of their Fellow-Creatures. But pray give me an Account how they treated the *Jews*, for I have heard much of their Barbarity towards thoſe People.

Obſ.

Obſ. No Man can read Dr. *Geddes*'s Account of the *Spaniſh* Inquiſition, *Roger*, but muſt be fill'd with Horrour at the Helliſh Cruelty of thoſe High-Church Prieſts who have the Management of it. He gives us an Account of above 800000 *Jews* drove out of *Spain* and *Portugal* by thoſe mercileſs Inquiſitors, beſides 300000 that were forc'd to profeſs themſelves Chriſtians, or to be made Slaves, contrary to ſolemn Promiſes: ſo that the Perſecution and Diſperſion of the *Spaniſh Jews* is reckon'd by all of that Nation, both as to Number and Hardſhips, to be nothing inferior to that which follow'd the Deſtruction of *Jeruſalem* by the *Romans*.

Countrym. A dreadful Story indeed, Maſter! which may ſerve as a Caveat to every Nation, to beware how they allow Highflying Prieſts to have any influence on their Counſels, or Sway in their Government. Pray give me an account how the *Spaniards* treated the *Americans*; for I have heard much of their Cruelty there too.

Obſ. I have neither time nor room to be particular in that matter, *Roger*; but *Bartholomew de las Caſas*, Biſhop of *Chiapa*, in his Account of the firſt Voyages and Diſcoveries of the *Spaniards* in *America*, gives ſuch a Relation of their Cruelties, as is enough to make our ears tingle, and our hair ſtand on end. He ſays they murder'd above forty Millions of thoſe People, tho they receiv'd them with all the Kindneſs imaginable: which gave the poor Infidels ſuch an Averſion to Chriſtianity, that when the *Spaniards* tied *Hothway*, one of their Princes, to a Stake, for no other reaſon but his defending himſelf and his Subjects againſt them; he told a Fryar, who exhorted him to believe in Chriſt, and he ſhould go to Heaven, that ſince *Spaniards* were admitted there, he would rather go to Hell than be in Heaven with ſuch cruel and wicked Men.

Countrym. Well, Maſter, I ceaſe to wonder at the judicial Blindneſs of the *Spaniards*, their being Enemies to their own Happineſs, and their chuſing rather to be under *French* Slavery than the legal Government of the Houſe of *Auſtria*. 'Tis the Judgment of God upon 'em, who may juſtly ſay, *Shall not my Soul be aveng'd on ſuch a Nation as this?* and, *Shall I not give 'em Blood to drink, for they are worthy?* Nor do I wonder that their Highflying Prieſts, who inſtigated them to all that Cruelty againſt the *Moors*, *Jews*, *Proteſtants*, and *Americans*, are made the unhappy Inſtruments of their Obſtinacy, which makes their Country continue ſtill to be a Field of Blood.

Obſ. Your Reflection is very juſt, *Roger*; nor do I wonder at the *French* King's Heart's being harden'd like that of *Pharaoh*, and that his Obſtinacy ſhould make him the Inſtrument to ruin his own Country and that of *Spain*: God is pleading his Cauſe with both of 'em for the Blood they have ſhed, and particularly with that Tyrant, for his Expulſion of 150000 Proteſtant Families, beſides the many thouſands that he has deſtroy'd by his barbarous Perſecutions. Therefore whatever influence ſecond Cauſes may have in thoſe things, the Hand of God is viſible in them, and in all probability will make the Sword of the Confederates the Inſtrument of his Vengeance upon thoſe two Nations, who have united their Counſels and Intereſts to bring Slavery upon *Europe*.

Countrym. I am of that opinion too, Maſter: But in the mean time are not we oblig'd to thoſe among us, who are for bringing a Prince of that Tyrant's Education to our Throne, that are for uniting with the bloody *Gallican* Church, and expreſs'd their Sorrow that our Convocation was not allow'd to ſit in K. *William*'s time, to have ripen'd the Propoſal? as appears by *Leſly*'s *Pontificate and Regale*, p. 263. printed for *Brome* and *Strahan*, in 1702.

Obſ. The Independency of the Clergy upon the State, and their being reſtor'd to all the Church-Lands, which that Author and others of his High-flying Stamp plead for, *Roger*, are Amuſements; which dazzle the Eyes of ſuch Clergymen as take more care of the Fleece than the Flock, and are more ſolicitous to have Grandeur, Riches, and Power in this World, than to prepare People for the next: but we hope the Eyes of the Nation will be open'd at laſt, to ſee whither thoſe Men, who foment our unhappy Diviſions, are leading them. That Treaſonable Libeller and his Party are big with hopes of a new Reſtoration and Revolution, as he impudently expreſs'd it in his *Good Old Cauſe*; yet you ſee the *Examiner*, and other Writers of his ſtamp, are for putting the Nation upon another Scent, and frightning them with the Deſigns of our General's acting the part of another *Julius Cæſar* and *Oliver*: which is juſt like the knaviſh Shepherd, that put his Maſters upon hunting the Fox, while the Wolves were breaking in upon the Fold.

Countrym. I confeſs, Maſter, it looks with a ſtrange aſpect to me, that while the *French* King is making ſuch mighty Preparations by Sea and Land, and boaſts that he is but *now beginning the War*, ſome People ſhou'd be ſo induſtrious to diſoblige our Brave and Victorious Army, and to beſpatter them to the World with ſuch Calumnies. Certainly the *French* King muſt rejoice to hear our ſucceſsful Generals ſo treated, and that there are ſuch Libellers among us, as avowedly inſpire the Nation with Jealouſies of them and our Troops, who have ſo frequently hazarded their Lives for their Queen and Country, obtain'd ſo many Glorious Victories, and taken ſo many ſtrong Towns in the view of the Enemy. I can compare the Authors of thoſe Calumnies and Diviſions that rage among us, to none more aptly than thoſe ſeditious *Jews* that created a Civil War, and occaſion'd Murders and Maſſacres in the City when 'twas beſieg'd by the *Romans*, who deſtroy'd both their Nation and their High-Church they made ſuch a pother about.

Obſ. 'Tis pity, *Roger*, that we have not ſuch a Law among us as the *Romans* had to puniſh Calumny, which *Pliny* and others tell us was by branding Calumniators on the Forehead, that every body might avoid them as Plagues. To this they added the tying 'em Neck and Heels, whipping 'em publickly in the Market-places, and ſelling 'em for Slaves, or ſending them to barren Iſlands: ſo careful was that wiſe People to prevent ſuch miſchievous Practices. But we ſhall talk further with the *Examiner* another time, *Roger*.

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